

**REMARKS**

Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and allowance of the above-captioned patent application are respectfully requested. This application relates to the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related condition.

Claims 5 to 7, 9 and 11 to 13 are currently pending in the application. Claims 5 to 7, 9 and 11 stand as finally rejected for obviousness over EP 0307077 ("Ford-Hutchinson") in view of Patani et al., Chemical Reviews, 1996, vol. 96 (8), pages 3147-3176 ("Patani") and U.S. Patent No. 6,514,984 ("Watanbe"). Claims 12 and 13 have been withdrawn from consideration. No claim has been allowed.

This amendment cancels Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 to 13. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form, incorporating all limitations from the base claim. This Amendment is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.116 as it merely cancels claims, reducing the number of claims for consideration on appeal. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims in the application will be Claim 7.

Applicants continue to traverse the rejection of Claim 7 as obvious over Ford-Hutchinson in view of Patani and Watanbe. One skilled in the art starting with Ford-Hutchinson would have to choose to make **two** modifications to the examples therein in order to arrive at the compounds presently claimed. First, one skilled in the art would need to decide to substitute a CF<sub>3</sub> group at the 4-position of the N-CH<sub>2</sub>-phenyl. Second, one skilled in the art would need to decide to substitute a hydrocarbon of 2 to 10 carbon atoms on the benzylic carbon. There is no teaching, suggestion or motivation for one skilled in the art to make these changes. As such, withdrawal of the obviousness rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance and passage thereto is earnestly requested. Any fees required in connection with this Reply may be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below if such would advance the prosecution of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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